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TO: All Law Enforcement Agencies

FROM: Maureen Johnson, Chief 
Motorist Services- Bureau of Records

SUBJECT: FIRES (Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System)

The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is pleased to announce that it has selected Open Portal Solutions (a subsidiary of Appriss) to provide DHSMV with enhanced crash record fulfillment services. This is a zero-cost contract so all services, software, etc. that OPS will be providing will be at no cost to DHSMV or to any other participating agency.

The contract includes a number of services that will reduce current costs and streamline many of the processes required for crash reports and associated data to be collected, distributed, and analyzed effectively. OPS has provided these services in partnership with several other states including Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, Washington, Nebraska, and Georgia with great success and we are excited to have them on board as our partner.

We have named the project **FIRES** (Florida's Integrated Report Exchange System). Over time we hope this name will be readily recognized by our highway safety partners and provide for reinforcement of our focus on efficient collection and dissemination of information.



Work on the project has already begun. OPS has assumed the responsibility of processing all of the paper crash reports submitted to DHSMV from local law enforcement agencies not currently submitting electronically. They have also started the development of interfaces and software that will allow the crash report information maintained by DHSMV to be accessible to all appropriate parties.

As part of their contract deliverables, OPS will be contacting each local law enforcement agency. The focus of the contact will be to communicate the components of the FIRES project that will be of direct benefit to your agency. These services include:

- 1) www.BuyCrash.com – Ecommerce fulfillment of collision report copy requests made to DHSMV from involved and interested parties will be delivered through www.BuyCrash.com. **There is a significant opportunity for each local law enforcement agency to participate in the revenues generated by these report sales.** A change supported by DHSMV to Florida Statue Title XXIII, Chapter 321, Article 23, Number 3 allows the Department to distribute up to \$5 of the report sale revenue back to the originating local agency. OPS will be communicating the revenue sharing program to your agency and explain the benefits of the program along with steps to participate.
- 2) www.firesportal.com – An analytical web portal that will allow authorized users at local law enforcement agencies to access their crash reports from current day to historical, run real-time analytical queries, and request parameter driven reports. Online mapping functionality will also be provided as geocoding data is added to the FIRES crash data repository. OPS will be communicating how agencies can have user accounts setup for 24/7 access to the web portal functionality.
- 3) **Electronic Crash Reporting Options** – OPS will be offering free crash reporting software, combined with free installation/implementation support, free training, free upgrades, and free ongoing support to agencies currently reporting crashes using the paper form. OPS additionally works closely with most of the RMS and crash reporting vendors and will provide free services to agencies wishing to report electronically through their existing RMS or crash report software vendor. OPS will be communicating how agencies can obtain software or services to move to electronic crash reporting.

You will begin to receive emails, letters, and/or phone calls from OPS customer service representatives in the coming weeks with details on each of the services and how your agency will benefit from participation in the FIRES project. We look forward to your agencies participation in the project and the resulting improvements in the crash reporting process that will lead to enhanced highway safety across our state.

If you need additional information you may direct your questions to Bonnie Scott-Walls at (850) 617-2586. You may also send an email to BonnieScott-Walls@flhsmv.gov.